

Դատաստանագրքեր/Իրաւագիտութիւն



Lawcodes/Jurisprudence

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The following materials are available at Internet Archive for reading online and/or downloading in various formats.

[Syrisch-römisches Rechtsbuch aus dem fünften Jahrhundert](#), Syriac and Classical Armenian texts, edited, annotated, and translated into German by Karl Georg Bruns and Eduard Sachau (Leipzig, 1880), in 518 pdf pages.

Also available:

[Syrische Rechtsbücher](#). Syriac texts, translation, and scholarly notes by Eduard Sachau.
[Writings of Eduard Sachau](#).

[The Syro-Roman Lawbook I: The Syriac Text with an Introduction](#), by Arthur Vööbus, in 108 pdf pages.

[The Syro-Roman Lawbook II: A Translation with Annotations](#), by Arthur Vööbus, in 92 pdf pages.

[The Armenian Canons of St. Sahak, Catholicos of Armenia \(390-439\)](#). This English translation of a 7th century Armenian document, which appeared in the *American Journal of Theology* (1898) pp. 828-848, was made by the distinguished classicist and Armenist Frederick Cornwallis Conybeare (1856-1924). It reflects conditions prevailing in the Armenian Apostolic Church in the 5th century, and perhaps, as Conybeare suggests, may incorporate in its initial section an Armenian translation of a Greek document made by Armenia's illuminator, St. Gregory, in the 4th century.

[Շահապիվանի ժողովի կանոնները Shahapivani zhoghovin kanonnere" \[Canons of the Council of Shahapivan\]](#). Grabar text of the canons of an important Armenian Church council held in A.D. 444, with a study by Nerse's Akinean. From the journal *Hande's Amso'reay* 63(1949), pp. 79-170. Includes an unpublished article on Shahapivan by Yovse'p' Gat'e"rchean.

Կանոնագիրք հայոց/Kanonagirk' hayots' [Armenian Book of Canons]. This is the critical edition of the Church canons in two volumes, edited by Vazgen Hakobyan, with extensive introductory studies and scholarly notes. Volume 1 (Erevan, 1964), in 827 pdf pages, contains the 8th century redaction of Yovhann's O'dznets'i. Volume 2 (Erevan, 1971), in 595 pdf pages, contains the more extensive 10th and 11th century redactions. Volume 1 has been split in two for manageability.

[volume1a](#)

[volume1b](#)

[Վարդապետութիւն առաքելոց անվաւերական կանոնաց մատեանը Vardapetut'iwn ar'ak'elots' anvawerakan kanonats' mateane'](#) [[Book of Apocryphal Canons of the Teaching of the Apostles](#)], թուղթ Յակոբայ առ Կոդրատոս եւ կանոնք Թադդէի *t'ught' Yakobay ar' Kodratos ew kanonk' T'adde'i* [*Jacob's Letter to Kodratos and the Canons of Thaddeus*]. Texts and study by Yakovbos Tashean (Vienna, 1896), in 455 pdf pages. *Azgayin matenadaran* series, volume 20.

The Penitential of Dawit' of Gandzak, English translation and commentary by C. J. F. Dowsett. The **Penitential** is an early 12th-century document of major importance for the study of Armenian customary law, among other topics: [The Penitential of Dawit' of Gandzak](#).

[Խրատք կանոնականը Xratk' kanonakank' \[Canonical Advice\]](#) (Louvain, 1961), in 112 pdf pages. This is a critical edition of the Classical Armenian text of **The Penitential of Dawit' of Gandzak**, edited by C. J. F. Dowsett [*Corpus Scriptorum Christianorum Orientalium*, volume 216, *Scriptores Armeniaci, tomus 3*].

[Գիրք Դատաստանի Girk' Datastani \[Lawcode\]](#), by Mxit'ar Gosh (d. 1213). Xosrov T'orosyan, editor (Erevan, 1975), in 763 pdf pages. This is the critical edition of the *grabar* text, with an extensive study and scholarly notes.

[The Lawcode \[Datastanagirk'\] of Mxit'ar Goš](#), translated with commentary and indices by Robert W. Thomson (Atlanta, GA, 2000), in 361 searchable and bookmarked pdf pages. Thomson's excellent translation is preceded by an introduction which describes the life of Mxit'ar (Mkhitar/Mkhitar'), the *Lawcode*, Mxit'ar's sources, his own views, and the impact that the *Lawcode* had on Armenian and other communities.

[Armenisches rechtsbuch ediert und kommentiert Sempadscher Kodex](#) (Strassburg, 1905), by Josef Karst, in 760 pdf page. Download contains both volumes of this two-volume work. Volume 1 has the Classical Armenian text **Դատաստանագիրք Datastanagirk' [Lawcode]** and German translation, and volume 2 is Karst's important commentary. This *Lawcode*, which was created by Cilician Armenia's noted general, statesman, and historian, Smbat Sparapet (the Constable) 1206-1276, is based on an earlier work by Mxit'ar Gosh.

[Assises d'Antioche](#) par Sempad le Connétable (Venice, 1876). *Grabar* text and French translation.

[Laws of King George V, of Georgia, Surnamed "The Brilliant"](#), by Oliver Wardrop, from *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland*, (Jul., 1914), pp. 607-626, in 21 pdf pages.

[Հայոց եկեղեցական իրավունքը Hayots' ekeghets'akan irawunk'e" \[Armenian Church Law\]](#), by Nerses Melik'-T'angean (Shushi 1903-1905), in 1095 pdf pages. A thorough study including *grabar* texts. Volumes one and two of three.

[Հայոց ժառանգական իրավունքը Hayots' zhar'angakan irawunk'e" \[Armenian Inheritance Law\]](#), by X. Samuelean, serialized in *Azgagrakan Hande's [Ethnographic Review]*, 15(1907) pp. 68-84 and 16(1907) pp. 117-129, and subtitled *Tesut'iwn hay sovorut'akan irawunk'its' [A Survey of Armenian Customary Law]*, in 30 pdf pages.

[Grundriss der Geschichte des armenischen Rechtes](#), by Josef Karst (Stuttgart, 1906-1907), in 225 pdf pages.

[Աննարկ մը հայ իրաւանց պատմութեան վրայ եւ Յ. Կարստի նոր երկասիրութիւնները Aknark me" hay irawants' patmut'ean vray ew Y. Karsti nor erkasirut'iwnnere" \[An Overview of the History of Armenian Law and the New Studies of J. Karst\]](#), by Nerse's Akinean, in 26 pdf pages. This important article was serialized in the journal *Hande's Amso'reay* during the years 1907-1908. It is a detailed examination of the documents relevant to early and medieval Armenian law. Although the final installment says "շարունակելի/to be continued," the article did not continue under the same title. Akinean continued the topic in other articles devoted to Mxit'ar Gosh's *Lawcode*.

[Հայ հին իրաւունքը Hay hin irawunk'e" \[Ancient Armenian Law\]](#). Arsen Ghltchian's study of ancient Armenian law from *Azghagrakan Hande's [Ethnographic Review]* XXII (1912), pp. 5-60, XXIII (1912), pp. 68-113, and XXIV (1913) pp. 5-50, in 148 indexed pdf pages. Describes the sources of customary law, family organization, marriage rights, adoption, status of the husband, monogamy and polygamy, and child marriage.

[Հին հայ իրավունքի պատմությունը Hin hay iravunk'i patmut'yune" \[The History of Ancient Armenian Law\]](#), by X. Samuelean/Samuelyan (Erevan, 1939), Volume 1, in 377 bookmarked pdf pages. Covers from earliest times through the Turco-Mongol period.

[Հայ հին շինականությունը Hay hin shinakanut'yune" \[Armenia's Ancient Peasantry\]](#), by Nicholas Adontz, in 49 pdf pages. This study, which is also a critique of Manandyan's conclusions on the ancient and medieval peasantry of Armenia, originally was published in the journal *Hayrenik'* (Boston, 1925). Extracted from *Works of Nicholas Adontz in Five Volumes* [in Armenian], Volume 1 (Erevan, 2006), pp. 87-140, P. H. Hovhannisyan, editor.

[Iranian Society and Law](#), by Anahit Perikhanian. This excellent study appeared as chapter 18 in the *Cambridge History of Iran* (New York, 1983), Volume 3(2), *Seleucid, Parthian, and Sasanian Periods*, pp. 627-680, in 60 pdf pages.

[The Reform of Justinian in Armenia](#). These sections from Nicholas Adontz's *Armenia in the Period of Justinian* (1908) describe the substance, intent, and effects of the reforms of the Byzantine emperor Justinian (A.D. 527-565) in Armenia. English translation, updated notes and bibliography, and new appendices by Nina G. Garsoian (1970). Included are the Introduction (pages 1-6), Chapter 1 (pages 7-24), Chapters 5-8 (pages 75-164), their Footnotes, Appendices I-V (pages 1*-246*), and full Bibliography (247*-303*). Chapter 1, The Political Division of Armenia; Chapter 5, Administration: Western Armenia before Justinian; Chapter 6, The Reform of Justinian in Armenia; Chapter 7, The Civilian Reorganization of Armenia; Chapter 8, The Significance of Justinian's Reform in Armenia.

The Russian original of the above translation is also available:

[Армения в эпоху Юстиняна Armeniia v epokhu Iustiniana \[Armenia in the Period of Justinian\]](#), by Nicholas Adontz (St. Petersburg, 1908), in 544 pdf pages. Entire book.

Karl Güterbock, [Römisch-Armenien und die Römischen Satrapieen](#) im vierten bis sechsten Jahrhundert (Königsberg, 1900).

Armenian translation of the above, Karl Güterbock's [Հռոմէական հայաստան եւ հռոմէական սատրապութիւնները դ-գ դարերուն Hr'ovme'akan hayastan ew hr'ovme'akan satraput'iwnnere" d-z darerun \[Byzantine Armenia and the Byzantine Satrapies in the 4th-6th centuries\]](#) *Azgayin matenadaran* series, volume 74 (Vienna, 1914).

Karl Güterbock, [Byzanz und Persien in ihren diplomatisch-völkerrechtlichen beziehungen im zeitalter Justinians](#) (Berlin, 1906).

Armenian translation of the above, Karl Güterbock's [Բիւզանդիոն եւ Պարսկաստան եւ անոնց դիւանագիտական եւ ազգային-իրաւական յարաբերութիւնները Յուստինիանու ժամանակ](#) [Biwzandion ew Parskistan ew anonts' diwanagitakan ew azgayin-irawakan yaraberut'iwnnere](#)" Yustinianu zhamanak [[Byzantium and Persia and Their Diplomatic and National-Juridical Relations in the Time of Justinian](#)] *Azgayin matenadaran* series, volume 62 (Vienna, 1911). Unfortunately, the title page is mangled, and pages 68-69 are missing.

[Քաղաքային օրէնք Ներսիսի Լամբրոնացոյ, ըստ Կոստանդիանոս, Թեոդոսի եւ Լեոնի թագաւորաց հռովմայեցոյ](#) [K'aghak'ayin o're'nk' Nersisi Lambronats'woy e'st Kostandianos, T'e'odosi ew Lewoni t'agaworats' hr'ovmayets'woy](#) [[The Civil Law of Nerse's of Lambron in Relation to the Laws of the Byzantine Emperors Constantine, Theodosius, and Leo](#)], by Karapet H. Basmajean (n. p., 1907), in 45 pdf pages.

[Das Seerecht in dem armenischen Gerichtsbuche des Mechithar Gosch](#) nach den Handschriften Venedig [Mechitharisten-Bibliothek] no 1237 und Etschmiadsin no 50 [Karapet] bzw. no 492, by Heinrich Ludwig Zeller (Heidelberg, 1915), in 26 pdf pages. A study of medieval Armenian maritime law.

[Միւիթար Գօշի Դատաստանագիրքն ու հին Հայոց քաղաքացիական իրաւունքը](#) [Mxit'ar Go'shi Datastanagirk'n u hin Hayots' k'aghak'ats'ikian irawunk'e"](#) [[Mxit'ar Gosh's Lawcode and Ancient Armenian Civil Rights](#)], by Xach'ik Samue'lean (Vienna, 1911), in 477 pdf pages. *Azgayin matenadaran* series, volume 63.

[Միւիթար Գոշի և Սմբատ Սպարապետի դատաստանագրքերի անդակցութիւնը](#) [[The Correlation between the Lawcodes of Mxit'ar Gosh and Smbat Sparapet](#)] by Em. Pivazyanyan/Էմ. Պիվազյան, from *Banber matenadaran* volume 5 (1960), pp. 117-134, in 18 pdf pages.

[Դատարանի կառուցվածքը միջնադարյան Հայաստանում](#) [[The Structure of the Judiciary in Medieval Armenia](#)], by X. T'orosyan/Խ. Թորոսյան, from *Banber matenadaran* volume 10 (1971), pp. 69-84, in 18 pdf pages.

[Մի վկայություն գերագույն դատակազմության և դատավարության մասին Չաքարյան Հայաստանում \(Մի էջ հայ և վրաց իրավունքի պատմությունից\)](#) [[A Testimony about the Structure of the Supreme Judiciary and about the Administration of Justice in Zak'arid Armenia \(A Page from the History of Armenian and Georgian Legal History\)](#)], by L. Melik'set'-Bek/L. Մելիքսեթ-Բեկ, from *Teghekgagir* #3-4(1945), pp. 73-82, in 9 pdf pages.

[Հայուհին պատմութեան առջեւ](#) [Hayuhin patmut'ean ar'jew](#) [[The Armenian Woman before History](#)], by Vardan Hats'uni, in 463 bookmarked pdf pages. This is an Eastern Armenian translation, made by Tsoghik Puluzian (Tehran, 2009), of Hats'uni's invaluable Western Armenian original (Venice, 1936). The 18 chapters of this work describe what is known about the lives and roles of Armenian girls and women: birth and early education, home life, marriage, motherhood, friendship, cultivation of beauty, in the Church, piety and virtue, evil, benevolence, building activities, scholarship, in the arts, in civil life, their acts of bravery, in conditions of despair, in mourning, and life in the palaces of foreigners.

[Հայ կնոջ իրավական վիճակը միջին դարերում](#) [Hay knoj iravakan vichake"](#) [mijin darerum](#) [[The Armenian Woman's Legal Condition in the Middle Ages](#)], by S. G. Barxudaryan/Բարխուդարյան, Ս. Գ., from *Patma-banasirakan handes* 2(1966) pp. 25-40, in 16 pdf pages.

See also articles under the category *Family, Marriage, Women*, from the following journals (multiple topics, periods, and authors):

Patma-banasirakan handes [Historico-Philological Journal]: [Family, Marriage, Women](#).

Lraber hasarakakan gitut'yunneri [Bulletin of Social Sciences]: [Family, Marriage, Women](#).

[Մայրական իրավունկը Mayrakan irawunke" \[Maternal Law\]](#), by X. Samuelean, in 73 indexed pdf pages, serialized in *Azgagrakan Hande's [Ethnographic Review]*, XVII (1908), pp. 126-141; XVIII (1908), pp. 59-90; and XIX (1910), pp. 35-58. Aspects of matriarchal rule in the Armenian family and in Armenian customary law.

[Eight Studies](#), by Johannes Avdall, in 93 pdf pages. Avdall, a respected 19th century historian, translator, and Armenian philologist, published these eight short but fascinating English-language articles in the *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*, during the years 1836-1870. Included are: from *JASB*(1836): (1) Memoir of the life and writings of St. Nerses Clajensis, surnamed the Graceful, Pontiff of Armenia, pp. 129-157; (2) Memoir of a Hindu Colony in Ancient Armenia, pp. 331-339; (3) Note on the origin of the Armenian Era, and the reformation of the Haican Calendar, pp. 384-387; (4) from *JASB*(1837), Singular narrative of the Armenian king Arsaces and his contemporary Sapor, king of Persia, extracted from the Armenian Chronicles, pp. 81-87; (5) from *JASB*(1840), **A short memoir of Mechitar [Mxit'ar/Mkhitar] Gosh, the Armenian Legislator**, pp. 967-972; (6) from *JASB*(1841), **On the Laws and Law Books of the Armenians**, pp. 235-250; (7) from *JASB*(1868) Authors of Armenian Grammars, from the earliest stages of Armenian literature up to the present day, pp. 134-138; (8) from *JASB*(1870) **A covenant of Ali, fourth caliph of Baghdad, granting certain immunities and privileges to the Armenian nation**, pp. 60-64.

[Ուսումնասիրութիւնք Լեհահայոց դատաստանագրոյն Usumnasirut'iwnk' Lehahayots' datastanagroyn \[Studies of the Lawcode of the Armenians of Poland\]](#) (Vienna, 1890), in 169 pdf pages. Includes two monographs on Armenian law by Ferdinand Bischoff and Josef Kohler translated into Armenian by G. Gale'mk'earean. *Azgayin matenadaran* series, volume 1.

Also available:

[Կամենից տարեգիրք հայոց Լեհաստանի եւ Ռումենիոյ Kamenits' taregirk' hayots' Lehastani ew Rumenioy \[Kamenits', Annals of the Armenians of Poland and Romania\]](#), by Ghewond Alishan (Venice, 1896), in 313 pdf pages.

[Հայք յԵդիսաբերթուպոլիս Դրանսիոլանիոյ Hayk' yEghisabet'upolis Dransiluanioy \[The Armenians of Transylvania's Elizabethopolis/Dumbraveni\]](#), by Grigor Govrikan, two volumes in one file, in 1134 pdf pages: volume 1 (Venice 1893), 1680-1779, *Azgayin matenadaran* series, volume 11; volume 2 (Venice, 1899), 1780-1825, *Azgayin matenadaran* series, volume 33.

[Ճանապարհորդութիւն ի Լեհաստան եւ յայլ կողմանս բնակեալս ի հայկազանց սերելոյ ի նախնեաց Անի քաղաքին Chanaparhordut'iwn i Lehastan ew yayl koghmans bnakeals i haykazants' sereloy i naxneats' Ani k'aghak'in \[Journey to Poland and Other Areas Inhabited by Armenians Originating from the City of Ani\]](#), by Minas Bzhshkeants' (Venice, 1830), in 421 pdf pages.

[Աստրախանի Հայոց Դատաստանագիրքը \[The Lawcode of Astrakhan's Armenians\]](#), by F. Poghosyan, from *Banber Matenadarani*, volume 6 (1962), pp. 171-195, in 25 pdf pages.

[Մխիթար Գոշի Դատաստանագրքի վրացերէն խմբագրութիւնը \[The Georgian Edition of Mxit'ar Gosh's Lawcode\]](#), by X. T'orosyan/Խ. Թորոսյան, from *Banber Matenadarani*, volume 11 (1973), pp. 73-124, in 52 pdf pages.

[Հողային եւ անձնական իրավունքը հին հայաստանում](#) *Hoghayin ew andznakan irawunk'e" hin hayastanum* [*Land and Personal Rights in Ancient Armenia*], by Sargis Bahat'reants' (Tiflis, 1894), in 83 pdf pages.

[Երդումն հին հայոց մէջ](#) *Erdumn hin hayots' me'j*. [*The Oath among Ancient Armenians*], by Vardan Hats'uni (Venice, 1910), in 326 pdf pages.

[Արեան վրեժ եւ փրկանք](#) *Arean vre'zh ew p'rkank'* [*Blood Vengeance and Deliverance*], by Xach'ik Samue'lean, in 37 pdf pages. Article from the journal *Azgagrakan Hande's* (Tiflis, 1903), pp. 269-303.

[The History of International Relations During Antiquity and the Middle Ages](#), by Amos S. Hershey, from *American Journal of International Law*, Vol. 5, No. 4 (Oct., 1911), pp. 901-933, in 34 pdf pages.

[Some Legal Systems that Have Disappeared](#), by John Wigmore, from *Louisiana Law Review*, Volume 2, Number 1(1939), in 31 pdf pages. Contents include: 1. Iranian; 2. Armenian-Georgian; 3. Amerindian; 4. Madagascan.

[Articles on Law](#), from the journal *Patma-banasirakan Handes* [*Historico-Philological Journal*] (Erevan, Armenia), multiple topics, periods, and authors.

[Articles on Law](#), from the journal *Lraber hasarakakan gitut'yunneri* [*Bulletin of Social Sciences*] (Erevan, Armenia), multiple topics, periods, and authors.

Articles from the serial *Banber Matenadaran* [*Journal of the Matenadaran*], may be downloaded from this page of the Matenadaran's website: [Բանբեր Մատենադարանի](#).

[HA Ts'ankk' 1887-1961](#). Indices for the Armenological journal *Hande's Amso'reay* (Vienna), for the years 1887-1961, in 56 pdf pages.

[AH Ts'ankk' 1896-1916](#). Indices for *Azgagrakan Hande's [Ethnographic Review]* (Shushi and Tiflis), 1895/1896-1916, in 176 pdf pages.

[BM Ts'ankk' 1941-2014](#). Indices for *Banber Matenadarani [Journal of the Matenadaran]* (Erevan), for the years 1941-2014, in 51 pdf pages.

[PBH Ts'ankk' 1958-2015](#). Indices for *Patma-banasirakan handes [Historico-Philological Journal]* (Erevan), for the years 1958-2015, in 824 pdf pages.

[Lraber Ts'ankk' 1966-2015](#). Indices for *Lraber hasarakakan gitut'yunneri [Bulletin of Social Sciences]* (Erevan), for the years 1966-2015, in 858 pdf pages.

For reading online: entries on Iranian judicial and legal systems in different periods, from *Encyclopaedia Iranica*

[Achaemenid](#), by F. Rachel Magdalene.

[Parthian](#), by Mansour Shaki.

[Sasanian](#), by Maria Macuch.

[From the advent of Islam through the 19th century](#), by Willem Floor.

[Open Access Ancient Law Journals](#), and
[Roman Law Library](#), compiled by Charles Jones, at The Ancient World Online (AWOL).

[Encyclopedic Dictionary of Roman Law](#), by Adolf Berger (Philadelphia, 1953; reprinted 1991), for reading online at Google Books.

Ancient

[List of Ancient Legal Codes](#); [Legal History](#), at Wikipedia.

[Ancient Legal History](#), at Fordham University.

[Ancient Law](#), at Yale Law School.

Medieval

[Medieval Legal History](#), at Fordham University.

[Medieval Law](#) (400-1399), at Yale Law School.

[Medieval Law](#), at Wikipedia.



[Armenian Resource Guides](#), at Internet Archive.